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R 241938Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 5411 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DATED
23 APRIL 1974 FOR YOUR INFO:

QTE

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FOL MADRAS TEL RPTD FYI

QUOTE

R 221135Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL MADRAS

TO RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO RUSBAY/AMCONSUL BOMBAY

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SUBJ: TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ADOPTS
RESOLUTION ON STATE AUTONOMY

1. SUMMARY: ON APRIL 20, THE TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY CONCLUDED A 5-DAY DEBATE ON STATE AUTONOMY
WITH THE ADOPTION BY A VOTE OF 161 TO 24, OF A
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GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION TABLED BY CHIEF MINISTER

KARUNANIDHI. THE RESOLUTION URGES THE CENTER TO QTE EFFECT IMMEDIATE CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA UNQTE IN ORDER TO QTE ESTABLISH A TRULY FEDERAL SET UP WITH FULL STATE AUTONOMY UNQTE. 5#3 \$3?-53 :3,5343\$ 9, 5#3 1971 REPORT OF THE GOTN-APPOINTED RAJAMANNAR COMMITTEE WHICH RECOMMENDED A LARGE-SCALE TRANSFER OF POWERS TO THE STATES. THE DMK AND ITS ALLIES SUPPORTED THE RESOLUTION, AND THE SWATANTRA OPPOSED IT. THE ANNA DMK ABSENTED ITSELF FROM THE VOTE. THE DEBATE TOOK PLACE AT A TIME OF INCREASING CONFRONTATION BETWEEN KARUNANIDHI AND THE CENTER ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES CENTERING ON DEMAND FOR MORE POWERS TO THE STATES.

2. INAUGURATING THE DEBATE ON APRIL 16, KARUNANIDHI DECLARED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT THE DMK HAD GIVEN UP ITS DEMAND FOR SECESSION IN 1962, BUT HE REITERATED ITS AIM WAS TO ABOLISH THE STATUS OF QTE INTERNAL COLONIES UNQTE FOR THE STATES. DESCRIBING THE INADEQUACY OF THE POWERS OF THE STATES, KARUNANIDHI EMPHASIZED THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES: (1) THE CENTER'S NOT CONSULTING THE GOTN BEFORE PASSING A RECENT ORDER PERMITTING FREE MOVEMENT OF COARSE GRAINS WHICH HE ALLEGED RESULTED IN A 50 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE PRICES OF COARSE GRAINS IN TAMIL NADU, AND (2) THE CENTER'S FAILURE TO CONSULT THE GOTN REGARDING THE RESETTLEMENT OF TAMILS FROM SRI LANKA, AND THE STATUS OF KACHCHATIVU. EDUCATION MINISTER NEDUNCHEZHIAN SAID: QTE WHAT WE DEMAND IS AUTONOMY, NOT A SEPARATE STATE UNQTE, AND HE DEMANDED THE VESTING OF RESIDUARY POWERS IN THE STATES, AS IN THE US AND USSR.

3. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF PARTY STANDS DURING DEBATE:

A. DMK. THE DMK WANTS THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION QTE SCRAPPED UNQTE ON THE GROUNDS THAT I) THE 1948 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WAS MADE UP OF PERSONS WEDDED TO IMPERIALISTIC IDEALS, II) POWERS IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONCURRENT LIST ARE IN PRACTICE EXERCISED ONLY BY THE CENTER, III) CONGRESS-FUELED STATES LIKE UTTAR PRADESH AND MAHARASHTRA GET MORE FUNDS IN PLAN ALLOCATIONS THAN NON-CONGRESS STATES LIKE TAMIL NAUD, AND IV) EMERGENCY POWERS VESTED IN THE INDIAN PRESIDENT REDUCE THE STATUS OF THE STATES TO THAT OF A QTE SERVANT. UNQTE.

B. ADMK. AGREED THAT STATES SHOULD HAVE MORE POWERS AND THE CONSTITUTION SHOULD BE AMENDED, BUT SAID THE TIMING OF THE RESOLUTION WITH THE DMK IN A QTE SHAKY POSITION UNQTE, LEADS TO SUSPICION ABOUT THE REAL MOTIVE BEHIND THE DMK DEMAND. HAVING WALKED OUT OVER A PROCEDURAL WRANGLE, THE ADMK DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION.

C. CONGRESS (R) AND CONGRESS (O). DESCRIBED THE MOVE TOWARD MORE AUTONOMY AS DANGEROUS. CONTENDED THAT WHENEVER THE DMK'S POPULARITY DECLINES IT TRIES TO RAISE THE AUTONOMY DEMAND TO SIDETRACK THE PEOPLE'S ATTENTION. CONGREIS (O) AND CONGRESS (R) VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED THE RESOLUTION AS A QTE POLITICAL STUNT UNQTE AND SAID IT WOULD LEAD TO BALKANISATION OF THE COUNTRY.

D. THE CPI. OPPOSED THE RESOLUTION AND WANTED A STRONG CENTER. THE CPI EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE PROPER FORUM FOR DISCUSSING THE ISSUE WAS PARLIAMENT AND THE CONFERENCE OF CHIEF MINISTERS,
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